

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Austin & Bell Funeral Home on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

WHEREAS the members of this General Assembly are pleased to honor those long-standing businesses that have provided outstanding service to the citizens of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Austin & Bell Funeral Home is one such business that has stood as a bastion of care and concern for those in mourning for 175 years, with owners and employees giving their time and energies toward creating an atmosphere of dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, in 1842, Marion Henry opened a cabinet shop in the Turnersville community in Robertson County, at a time when cabinet makers made caskets and buried the deceased; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry passed the business to his sons, Joe W. Henry and W. T. Henry; the brothers operated two hearses and two teams of fine horses, a white team and a black team; and

WHEREAS, the company moved to the Masonic building on the west side of the Springfield town square in the 1870s; and

WHEREAS, in 1900, W. T. Henry sold his interest in the business to Frank Bell, the brother-in-law of Joe W. Henry; thirteen years later, the business, then known as Henry & Bell, moved into a 35,000 square-foot building on Main Street, which contained the first electric elevator in the county; and

WHEREAS, Frank Bell sold his share of the business to Robert Henry Bell in 1919; in 1938, Robert Henry Bell became the sole owner of Henry & Bell, when he purchased Joe Henry's interest upon his death; and

WHEREAS, Henry & Bell merged with Austin & James Funeral Home in 1942 and moved to its current location on the corner of Walnut Street and 7th Avenue that same year; and

WHEREAS, the funeral home once again changed ownership when Carney Bell inherited the business from his father, Robert Henry Bell, in 1952; the current owner, Robert “Bob” Henry Bell III, took the helm in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the funeral home has expanded over the years to include locations in Greenbrier, White House, Pleasant View, and Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, throughout the past 175 years, the staff and management of Austin & Bell Funeral Home have rendered sterling service to grieving families, and it is wholly fitting that they be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Austin & Bell Funeral Home for providing 175 years of service to the community and extend our best wishes for continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.